

THE GARZETTE



Volume 18, Issue 3

147.075+

444.525+5mhz

53.110 -1mhz

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A Note from the President, Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV

Since I'm late at getting this note to David, KA4KKF, I might as well acknowledge some of the reason it was late. Power went out yesterday. The computer stayed on for about 30 minutes. I didn't shut it down, just got up and did something else for a few minutes. You know, like silencing the alarms on several UPS's. Making sure the XYL was comfortable, starting the fire in the fireplace. Well, when I returned the battery had given up and the computer died. Now, the only way it will run is in save mode. I mean I've got to be nuts to think the computer would run forever on backup batteries. But, I did. I even left both monitors on. I tell this story hoping that you have been smarter about watching your equipment and the backup power. I participated in the Atlanta Radio Club weekly net Sunday evenings they often have a question of the day, and last night it was backup power for the rigs. Many were on hand held radios, so that put them on battery, but many more had a good backup plan for their rigs. Everything from large batteries to large UPS's to generators, to several small batteries. Many were like me, it would take a few minutes to make the conversion, but they could maintain service for several hours. I have batteries and a small generator. The generator isn't connected, so it would take a few minutes to get everything in place. The computer connected to my radio equipment stayed on. No monitor or other big hitters on that UPS. I guess it requires a plan!

The March GARS meeting should be interesting. Greg Sarrett, K4OZX, our Southeastern Division Director and Susan Swiderski, AF4FO our GA Section Manager will be there to honor the 2008, Bill Orr Technical Writer of the year. We will also have a presentation from Rich Arland, K7SZ, on *Going Green With a QRP Twist*.

2009 elections are now a thing of the past, and speaking for all the officers, thanks for the vote. We'll do a good job this year and do the club proud. Just don't forget to be there when we need you. We can't do our job without all of you stepping up on occasion to get the job done.

This past week or so several GARS folks worked K5D. Bob Allphin, K4UEE, with SEDXC gave us a preview of the DXpedition a few months back, so it made it a little more interesting to work this one. It also put a little challenge on the table. It was fun comparing notes on K5D activities. www.K5D.us is the web site.

This week I'm off to my first contest station PJ2T, and it's in the Netherland Antilles. You can find a little information about PJ2T on the SEDXC web site www.sedxc.org/PJ2T. More about the contesting station at <http://asgard.kent.edu/cccl>. Hope to work all of you March 7-8 during the ARRL International DX Contest.

73

Norm, WA4ZXV

March 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 2000 2m net	3	4 2100 6m net	5	6	7 0730 breakfast
8	9 2000 2m net	10 Meeting	11 2100 6m net	12	13	14 0730 breakfast
15	16 2000 2m net	17	18 2100 6m net	19	20	21 0730 breakfast
22	23 2000 2m net	24	25 2100 6m net	26	27	28 0730 breakfast
29	30 2000 2m net	31	1 2100 6m net	2	3	4 0730 breakfast
5	6 2000 2m net	7	8 2100 6m net	9	10	11 0730 breakfast

GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Check the Web Site for Location.
- Every Monday at 8 PM local time: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2 meter repeater
- Every Wednesday at 9 PM local time: GARS 6 meter net on the GARS 6 meter repeater
- Every Saturday at 7:30 AM local time: GARS Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or email to ka4kkf@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary. In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Rick Patchin, KD4RFK does the final production work on *The GARZETTE* by folding & labeling. Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN, stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Norm Schklar, wa4zxv, manages email delivery. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact:
Newsletter Editor:

David Adcock ka4kkf
(770-271-9398)
ka4kkf@arrl.net

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048
Attn: Newsletter Editor

Do you know a boy or girl
14 to 21 years old
who wants to:

Climb, Hike
Canoe, Camp
Talk on an amateur radio
Have Fun
Tell them about

Venture Crew 73

**We meet the second Tuesday
of each Month at 7:00PM
prior to the GARS meeting at
St. Marguerite D'Youville
Church..**

For more information Visit
www.gars.org/crew73
or contact Ray Back:

Email crew73@gars.org
Phone (770) 295-9174

GARS Communication System

70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

APRS

144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz)
82.5 PL Tone

D-Star

WD4STR

146.970 - (600KHZ)
440.550 + (5MHZ)

2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone

Main Repeater Site

Oak Street, Lawrenceville

Backup Repeater Site

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

Remote Receive Sites

Bogan Road, Buford

Goshen Springs Road,

Norcross

Lanier Mountain, Snellville

2009 Hamfest Schedule

Mar 21
Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club
Marietta, GA
Jim Miller Park
<http://www.w4bti.org>

April 25 Calhoun Hamfest
Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society
<http://www.k4woc.com>
May 9 Heart of Georgia Hamfest
Byron Middle School, Byron, GA
www.heartofgeorgiamfest.com

June 6
Georgia State Convention Atlanta Radio Club
(W4DOC)
Marietta, GA Jim Miller Park
<http://www.atlantahamfest.com>

Aug 8
Ellijay Ham Fest 2009 at the Ellijay Lions Club, Ellijay, Georgia.

<http://www.ngamtn.com/w4hhh/>

Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrl-ga.org

First Saturday, Even Months

9:00AM
EOC Building
Butch Nitz, AF4FS
(770) 968-8780

First Wednesday

7:00 PM
ARRL/VEC
Roberts School
4681 School Street,
Acworth
Jodi Escher AG4BK
770-387-1591

Second Saturday, Odd Months

ARRL VEC
8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist
Church
5312 West Mountain St.
Stone Mountain
Bob Varone, W4ETN
(770) 978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC
9:00AM
Marietta First United
Methodist Church Room 305, 56
Whitlock Ave
Marietta
David Still, WB4RRD
(770) 973-2566

Fourth Tuesday

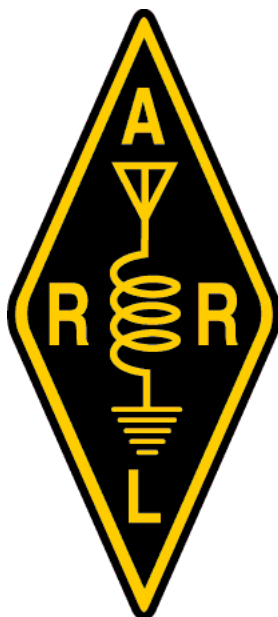
ARRL VEC
7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road,
Douglasville

Third Sunday

W5YI VEC
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge
465 South Perry Street
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
770-963-5721

Fourth Sunday

2:30 PM
Georgia Tech
GATECH-VANLEER ELEC ENGRG
BLDG-RMW218
777 ATLANTIC DRIVE
WWW.W4AQL.ORG
TALKIN 145.15-PL 167.9
ATLANTA, GA 30332
Contact: ALEXANDER G CARVER
(404)894-2936
ACARVER@ECE.GATECH.EDU



Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC
Southern Polytechnic
State University
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM
Talk In 146.880(-)

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC
Room W218
Van Leer Electrical
Engineering Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00 PM

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club
Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
Meeting is at 7:30 PM
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library
Meeting is at 6:30 PM
Talk In - 147.225(+)
PL 123.0

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Annistown Road Baptist Church
Intersection of Annistown Rd
& Spain Rd
Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Third Tuesday

**North Fulton Amateur Radio
League**
Masonic Lodge
194 Milton Avenue
Alpharetta, Georgia
meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club
Wieuca Baptist Church on
Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, 10 AM

February 2009 GARS General Meeting

February 10, 2009

1. President Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
2. Gordon Anthony, KF4OKA, was welcomed back after a serious illness and hospital stay.
3. Steven Richardson, KJ4STR, was recognized for upgrading to General Class at the Ham Cram.
4. Introductions were then made of all those present.
5. Amy Woodrick, KE4IKF, was recognized for her outstanding job organizing the volunteers for the dog show and working all three days.
6. The Nomination Committee report was presented as follows:
 - a. President – Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV (incumbent),
 - b. Vice-President – Earl Whatley, AF4FG (incumbent),
 - c. Treasurer – Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ (incumbent),
 - d. Secretary – Randy Collins, N4COR (incumbent), and
 - e. Program Manager - Kyle Albritton, W4KDA (incumbent).The president then opened the floor for additional nominations, there were none and those nominated were elected.
7. Brian Page, N4TRB, announced that he has been asked to staff a special events station aboard the USS Alabama battleship in June. If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Brian.
8. Scott Hartlage, KF4PWI, gave a program on Geocaching which was very interesting and elicited a great deal of discussion.
9. Break.
10. Scott continued the program on Geocaching.
11. Eddie Foust, WD4JEM, gave a talk on recovering balloon payloads using techniques similar to Geocaching.
12. Earl Whatley, AF4FG, reported that this year is the 99th anniversary of the Boy Scouts and many of the troops and sponsoring organizations were going to place geocaches with a scout theme.
13. Norm advised the members that a proposed by-law change would be presented at the March meeting. This will address a new dues structure that will provide discounts for multi-year memberships.
14. Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ, gave a treasurer's report; there is a balance of \$6,365.84 in the checking account and \$1,800 in the money market account. Copies were made available.
15. Prize drawings were held.
16. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.



← KF4MWI Brian Siegmund

KI4YMD Chris Fowler →



← W9RR George Senibar

The Field Day Story

Where the spirit of “Amateur Radio Past” joins forces with the Next Generation of Innovations, Interests and Individuals!!!

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in amateur radio. On the fourth full weekend in June, tens of thousands of amateur radio operators gather for a public demonstration of our service. Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN!

Amateur radio is about knowledge and growth. It is a hobby and service that truly offers “something for everyone.” Amateur Radio embraces both the old and new. While CW may no longer be a testing element, it is still a strong and favorite operating mode for many. Tens of thousands of operators are embracing digital technologies, from RTTY to newer digital modes like PSK31 and Olivia. Phone operation, probably the largest segment of the hobby, also has new frontiers to be explored with digitized voice, VOIP, and IRLP. And this is why Field Day – the largest annual on-the-air operating event – is so exciting. It gives all – the old timer and the newcomer, the brass-pounder and the computer assisted operator – the chance to share and teach the broad range of modes and technologies we find in our hobby.

Field Day is truly the time in which we bring amateur radio to Main Street USA. By setting up in parking lots, malls, Emergency Operations Centers, parks and even at home, amateur operators learn skills that will allow them to better serve their communities. Setting up in these public venues gives added public relations value – their friends and neighbors can see and experience the fun and public service capability that their “ham radio” neighbors bring to the community.

Join in the fun! For more information on amateur radio and the ARRL – the national organization for Amateur Radio – visit www.arrl.org

Field Day 2009 is coming up fast.
Will you be joining us at Rhodes Jordan Park this year?



The K7RA Solar Update

Excitement mounted a few days ago when new Solar Cycle 24 sunspot 1013 emerged, but two days later it was fading away, similar to other recent sunspot appearances. The sunspot number for February 24-26 was 12, 14 and 12. Today's number will likely be 0. Sunspot numbers for February 19-25 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 12 and 14 with a mean of 3.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.9, 69.2, 70.6, 70.3, 70.8, 71 and 70.7 with a mean of 70.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 1, 3, 3, 3, 5, 6 and 3 with a mean of 3.4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 3, 2, 3, 3, 6 and 2 with a mean of 2.7.

The vernal equinox is in a few weeks -- the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere -- March 20, 2009 at 1144 UTC. Areas north and south of the equator will be bathed in an equal amount of Sun, and this is always a good time for HF propagation.

Using one of the popular propagation programs to predict a path from California to Australia using an average sunspot number of 12, on 15 meters on January 20, there was a good chance of an opening from 2130-0100 UTC, with an excellent chance within that period, at 2330-0030 UTC. On March 20, using the same numbers, the chances of propagation look excellent from 2200-0230 UTC -- the band perhaps opening at 2130 UTC and shutting down at 0330 UTC. This gives us an illustration of propagation changing with the season.

Another example would be Dallas to Brazil. On January 20 on 20 meters, the band would probably be open from 1800-2300 UTC, with signals gradually increasing about 12 dB over that period. On March 20, a likely 20 meter opening would be from 1830-0230 UTC, with signals increasing 16 dB over that period and rising faster, as well.

Geomagnetic activity has been very quiet for a long time now, and this is expected to continue. NOAA and the US Air Force predict a planetary A index of 5 over the next two weeks, with minor exceptions. On March 3, the A index may rise to 8. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions February 28-March 2, quiet to unsettled March 3-4 then back to quiet on March 5. The predicted quiet conditions should be good for the CQ 160-Meter DX Contest this weekend.

Mike Schaffer, KA4JAW, lives in West Central Florida and enjoys observing sporadic-E propagation on broadcast television. His local channel 2 station, WEDU, ceased analog transmissions recently, eliminating co-channel interference with channel 3. On Sunday, February 22 just after 2300 UTC, Mike noticed a wrestling match on channel 3; shortly after, a logo appeared for [TGV](#), a broadcaster in Guatemala City. That station is more than 1000 miles away.

Joaquin Montoya, EA2CCG, in Spain, reported good conditions over the past few days during the brief sunspot appearance. On February 25, 2100-2130 UTC, he worked a number of states in the western United States, including one in Montana while he was mobile on 20 meters. He could hear K5D, and earlier that day he worked K5D on 17 meters and 6V7P in Senegal, as well.

An Alaskan newspaper this week [ran a story](#) about subdued aurora due to low solar activity. Note their confusing comment about the Sun having an 11 year positive cycle following an 11 year negative cycle. Perhaps they refer to the switch in magnetic polarity in individual sunspots.

Amateur solar observer Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, provides this weekly report on solar conditions and propagation. This report also is available via W1AW every Friday, and an abbreviated version appears in [The ARRL Letter](#). Check [here](#) for a detailed explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin. An archive of past propagation bulletins can be found [here](#). You can find monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and 12 overseas locations [here](#). Readers may contact the author via [e-mail](#).

Repeater operation

The courtesy tone is there for a reason guys and gals. Please wait for it to transmit in your QSO.

If you want to break-in to a QSO, then throw your call sign in before the courtesy tone and after the person talking is quiet. Once the person talking stops there is about 2 seconds for anyone to throw out their callsign to be recognized.

EDITOR

GARS

APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

CALL: _____

NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED: _____

ITEM	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
T-SHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
GOLF SHIRT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
SWEATSHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET -- RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
GARS BADGE -- WITH name & call			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
HAT -- WITH name & call				
Red			\$14.00	
White			\$14.00	

TOTAL ORDER PRICE: _____

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Dick Sandberg, N9SXJ or mail to:

GARS
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, Georgia 30048

NOTE: Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Dick N9SXJ

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER

RENEWAL

Amateur Call Sign _____ License Class Novice Technician General
Advanced Extra

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email address _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____

Cell Telephone _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I prefer to receive the GARZETTE newsletter by: US Mail Email (please check only one)

Type of Membership

Individual \$30.00 annually
Student \$15.00 annually
Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65)
Family ** \$35.00 annually

** Available for family members residing at the same address

Optional Contributions

Repeater Fund \$ _____
Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Additional Family Members **

Name _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yy)

License Class Technician General Extra ARRL Member Yes No Life

Interests _____

I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club.

Applicant Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

GARS Appreciates these fine sponsors that support our great organization!

**GWINNETT COLLISION
CENTER, INC.**

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Fax 770-263-9548

Mark KJ4VO

Bill W5RQR

David KE4VDH

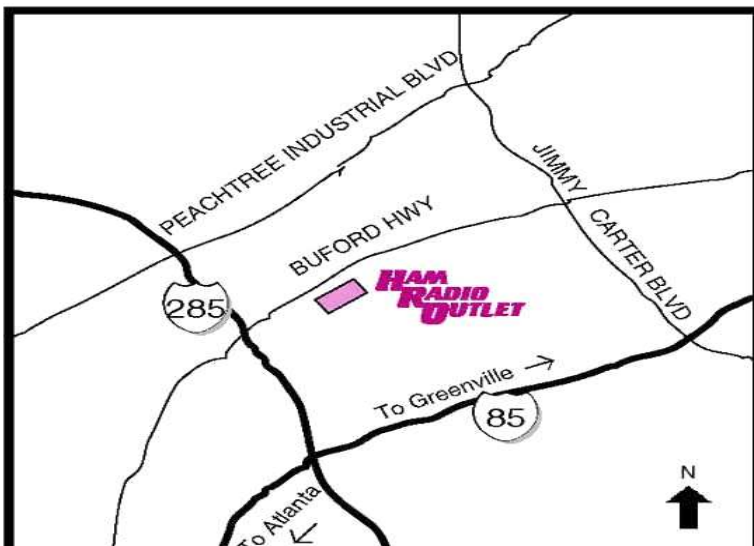
Tom KB4HQA

Dale W4GCL

Jim N1ABM

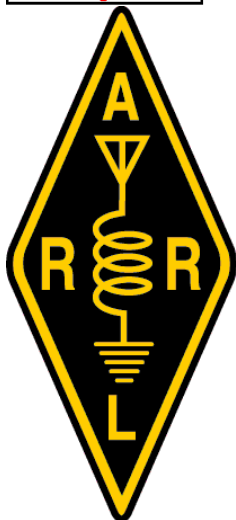
Josh W4JDH

Brian KC4UKR



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ADI
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Alpha Delta
Arrow
Butternut
Create
Cushcraft
Diamond
Force 12
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Hy-Gain (Telex)
KLM
Larsen
M2
Premier
Valor
Van Gorden

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



To receive the **Garzette** via e mail contact, please contact the membership chairman

Saturday Morning

Breakfast

Join us at the Golden Coral
on Riverside Drive in

Lawrenceville at 7:30 a.m.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 10th

**The Meetings are on the
Second Tuesday of the
month 7:30pm at the
St Marguerite
D'Youville Church,**

85 Gloster Rd NW,

**Lawrenceville, GA 30044.
Just off Highway 29 SW
of Lawrenceville.**

**Directions on the Web
site.**

<http://www.gars.org>

**PRUDENTIAL
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REALTY**

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Purchase of their properties takes
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****References available upon Request**